Establishing a National Research Collaborative (REALYST) to Examine Risk and Resilience among Homeless Young Adults in Seven U.S. Cities

Roundtable Session
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REALYST

Research, Education and Advocacy Co-Lab for Youth Stability and Thriving

REALYST is a national collaborative of academic and community partners that uses research to inform innovative policies, programs and services aimed at ending homelessness and housing instability among young people. We believe that understanding youth homelessness helps communities create effective solutions for preventing it.
REALYST Members

Anamika Barman-Adhikari, PhD
University of Denver
Denver, CO
Specialty: Social Networks and Substance Use

Hsun-Ta Hsu, PhD
University of Missouri
Columbia, MO
Specialty: Social Networks and Sexual Activity

Kimberly Bender, PhD
University of Denver
Denver, CO
Specialty: Mental Health

Sarah Narendorf, PhD
University of Houston
Houston, TX
Specialty: Mental Health

Kristin Ferguson, PhD
Arizona State University
Phoenix, AZ
Specialty: Employment

Robin Petering, PhD
University of Southern California
Los Angeles, CA
Specialty Area: Violence

Diane Santa Maria, DrPH, RN
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston
Houston, TX
Specialty: HIV/STI/pregnancy prevention among at-risk youth

Jama Shelton, PhD
Silberman School of Social Work at Hunter College
New York, NY
Specialty: Housing and LGBTQ Issues
1. Strategy for professional development and career advancement (e.g., networking, promotion and tenure)

2. Strategy for impact

3. Collective ideas and input with varying expertise
Creation of REALYST Collaborative

1. Site selection

2. Investigator recruitment

3. Agency-initiated data collection in San Jose
REALYST Collaborative

Collaboration of Researchers to Collect Data in 7 Cities

• Houston – University of Houston & University of Texas
• Los Angeles and San Jose – University of Southern California
• New York – CUNY Hunter College
• St. Louis – University of Missouri
• Denver – University of Denver
• Phoenix – Arizona State University
REALYST Collaborative’s Sample Project

Homeless Youth Risk and Resilience Survey (HYRRS)

1. Process and feasibility of survey creation

2. Reducing items from 1.5-hour survey to 45 minutes
Where did you sleep last night?

- Family home
- Foster family home
- Relative's home
- Friend's home
- Home of my boyfriend/girlfriend/person I'm having sex with
- Group home
- Youth Shelter (emergency, temporary)
Homeless Youth Risk and Resilience Survey - Survey Participants & Procedures

- Young adults ages 18-26
- Homeless or housed with a voucher
- Interviewed and recruited at young adult-specific homeless services
  - Drop-in centers
  - Shelters
  - Transitional housing
- 200+ young people in each city for surveys; 30 of those for qualitative interview
- Self-administered surveys on iPads
Homeless Youth Risk and Resilience Survey - Participants

N=1426

Mean Age= 20.9 (2.09)

Gender
- Cisgender Male 59%
- Cisgender Female 34%
- Trans/Genderqueer/Other 7%

Sexual Orientation
- Heterosexual 71%
- Bisexual 14%
- Gay/Lesbian 9%
- Something Else/Questioning 6%

Spent Last Night in...
- Unstable Housing 18%
- Shelter 49%
- Streets 33%

Race/Ethnicity
- White 19%
- Black 37%
- Hispanic 17%
- Multiracial 16%
- Other 11%

HS Degree/GED 69%

Ever in Foster Care 39%
REALYST Data Collection, Analysis, and Coordination

1. Data collection, cleaning, analysis
2. Social networking
3. Grid to coordinate products
4. Leads and supportive others
| pid | screen1 | screen3 | screen5 | consent | consent_agree | pid_5_text | city_in         | citysite         | num_moves | gender | gender | gender | gender | gender | gender | gender | gender | gender | gender | gender | gender |
|-----|---------|---------|---------|---------|-------------|------------|----------------|----------------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1   | 1004    | 15      | 24      | 7       | 1           | 3          | New York, NY    |               | 4         |         |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |        |
| 2   | 1005    | 15      | 19      | 9       | 1           | 3          | New Orleans, LA |               | 12        | 0       | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 3   | 1006    | 15      | 22      | 9       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 2         | 0       | 1      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 4   | 1007    | 15      | 22      | 9       | 1           | 3          | New Orleans, LA |               | 45        | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 5   | 1008    | 15      | 19      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 6   | 1009    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 7   | 1010    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 8   | 1011    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 9   | 1012    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 10  | 1013    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 11  | 1014    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 12  | 1015    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 13  | 1016    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 14  | 1017    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 15  | 1018    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 16  | 1019    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 17  | 1020    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 18  | 1021    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 19  | 1022    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 20  | 1023    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 21  | 1024    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 22  | 1025    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 23  | 1026    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 24  | 1027    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 25  | 1028    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 26  | 1029    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 27  | 1030    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 28  | 1031    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 29  | 1032    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| 30  | 1033    | 15      | 23      | 7       | 1           | 3          | Denver, CO     |               | 1         | 1       | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      |
| A   | B   | C   | D   | E   | F   | G   | H   | I   | J   | K   | L   | M   | N   | O   | P   | Q   | R   | S   | T   | U   | V   | W   | X   | Y   | Z   | AA  | AB  | AC  | AD  | AE  |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| pid | pid | pid | altno| q2  | q1_l_text| q1_r_text| q4  | q5   | q6   | q7   | q8   | q9   | q10  | q11  | q12  | q13  | q14  | q15  | q16  | q17  | q18  | q19  | q20  | q21  | q22  | q23  | q24  | q25  | q26  | q27  | q28  | q29  | q30  | q31  | q32  | q33  |
| 1001| 1001| 1001| 30  | 2011| Jonah  | 2011| 1   | 5    | 6    | 2    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 1    | 1    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 171  |
**HYRRS Team Scientific Products**

**MANUSCRIPTS**

**MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION**

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**Studies that are up for grabs / Potential student papers**

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REALYST Publicity and Dissemination

1. Infographics and data dissemination within sites

2. REALYST web consultant – work and process of website creation

3. Service network interest in partnering on data collection
How did you become unstably housed or homeless?

48% I was kicked out/asked to leave my family home

San Jose
18% family homeless
12% could not pay rent
9% kicked out relatives
8% ran away family

Los Angeles
18% ran family home
18% no place to stay when moved
17% could not pay rent
14% Left DV

Phoenix
22% could not pay rent
16% no place to stay when moved
13% Left DV
14% Other

Denver
22% could not pay rent
18% no place to stay when moved
16% ran family home
13% kicked out relatives

Houston
15% could not pay rent
14% ran away family
11% kicked out relative
11% kicked out foster
Homeless Youth Risk and Resilience Study
210 young adults (ages 18-26)
July 2016-January 2017
Phoenix, Arizona

Background

Gender Identity
- 56% Males
- 41% Female
- 3% Trans/Other

Race/Ethnicity
- White or Caucasian (43%)
- Black or African American (29%)
- Mixed Race (20%)
- Hispanic or Latino (12%)
- Asian or Pacific Islander (7%)

Sexual Orientation
- Straight (72%)
- Bisexual (13%)
- Gay or Lesbian (10%)
- Other (5%)
- Questioning (2%)

Educational Background
- 81% have diploma or GED

Employment
- 30% worked full-time in past year
- 24% currently working
- 76% not working

Homelessness History
- 12% aged out of foster care or juvenile justice
- 16% ran away
- 60% kicked out by family, relative, or foster parent

Social Media Use:
- 73% Facebook
- 48% Instagram
- 37% Snapchat

52% use social media 1 or more times a day

Average Age:
- 22 years old (range 18 to 26)

Homelessness History:
- Ran away from home (9%)
- Kicked out by relatives (11%)
- Left because of domestic violence (13%)
- Moved to Phoenix with no place to live (17%)
- Could not afford rent (23%)
- Kicked out by family (14%)

59% are local youth originally from Phoenix or Tempe

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**OUR MISSION:**

REALYST is a national collaborative of academic and community partners that uses research to inform innovative policies, programs and services aimed at ending homelessness and housing instability among young people. We believe that understanding youth homelessness helps communities create effective solutions for preventing it.
Questions?

For more information on the REALYST Collaborative or the HYRRS Survey, please contact:

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REALYST would like to thank Julie Chiron at Know it Out Loud for strategic communications support.